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of Engineers**

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News Release

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Spring Valley siren to be re-tested

Baltimore – The siren system at Spring Valley's Lot 18 will be tested again Wednesday, June 23 at noon by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District. The siren was sounded last Wednesday (June 16) to test the equipment and to ensure that it was audible to those who would need to react to the siren in an emergency.

The test showed that the system needed to be augmented and adjusted, and the Corps will conduct this second test to make sure it now meets the requirements of the work site.

The siren will be used as one part of an emergency notification system to let people in the immediate area know they should shelter-in-place in the unlikely event that a chemical release occurs and escapes the engineering controls during the Lot 18 dig. The residents and university staff who are potentially affected have been notified and taught shelter-in-place techniques. Others need take no action unless directed by fire or police officials.

The other part of the emergency notification procedure is a ring-down system that delivers messages to pre-arranged telephone numbers and email addresses.

The siren test will begin with a wail sound, which is the emergency notification, followed by a steady tone, which is the all-clear notification. This test will last about one minute.

The dig is scheduled to resume this week with extensive safety controls. It will be carried out Mondays-Thursdays. The Corps will conduct tests of the siren equipment the first Friday of the month at noon as long as the dig continues.

Lot 18 is located on the southeastern edge of the American University campus and adjacent to houses on Rockwood Parkway. The work at Lot 18 is part of the Corps' investigation and cleanup of buried ordnance, explosive waste and hazardous substances that may still exist as a result of past military activities in the Spring Valley neighborhood.

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<http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/projects/WashingtonDC/springvalley.htm>